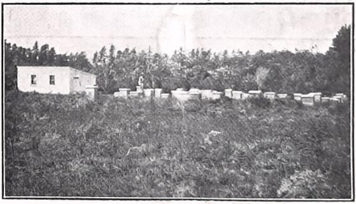
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E. A. Earp

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

VOL. 4. **DECEMBER 1st, 1920.** No. 12.

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Out Apiary of Mr. A. H. Davies at Tamahere, Waikato.

ISSUED MONTHLY

FOR

THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF N.Z.

STONE, SON & CO., LTD., PRINTERS, DUNEDIN

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

The Official Organ of the
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.

No. 12 | Vol. 4 | 6/- Per Annum.

National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

The object of the Association is the improvement of the Beekeeping Industry and furthering the interests and prosperity of the Beekeepers throughout the Dominion. Membership is extended to any Beekeeper who is in accord with the aims and objects of the Association on payment of fees as follows:—1 to 15 Hives, 5/-; 16 to 50 Hives, 10/-; 51 to 100 Hives, 15/-; 100 to 200 Hives, 20/-; every additional 100, 5/- extra.

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All communications respecting the Association and Journal to be sent to
FRED C. BAINES, Kati Kati.

CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL.

Those who have followed the work of the National for the last few years must note with satisfaction the gradual accomplishment of its aims and desires by the appearance of legislative enactments that have appeared in our Journal lately. It has been said, with perhaps a certain amount of justification at the time, that the National was not getting any "forrader": we assembled in Conference every year; the same matters were brought forward, and the same resolutions passed without any result. This is quite true, but one has to remember that that was all we could do: we could not compel the Government to carry out our wishes, and the departmental officials know only too well how difficult it was during the period of the war to get any attention to domestic legislation except that which was considered absolutely necessary. However, now that we are getting settled down gradually, so are our wants being attended to, the latest being our request for taxation to furnish revenue to pay for extra inspectors.

We publish elsewhere a copy of the Order Paper bearing upon the amendment of the Apiaries Act allowing for taxation to be imposed. We are indebted to Mr. J. A. Young, M.P., for this copy.

The Secretary has written Dr. Reakes on this matter of taxing apiarists to see if it is not possible to get a solution of the apiary boundaries question at the same time. The two clauses of ours that the Executive and last Conference passed as being a workable basis have been submitted to him, and we are sure if it is possible something will be done to definitely fix or drop the question.

The matter of taxation certainly gives those who are persistent in their request for legislation on apiary boundaries definite grounds for action, as they can reasonably say that if they are willing to pay a tax to help the Government keep disease under control, they certainly have a right to expect the same Government will protect them from outsiders dumping out-apiaries to their detriment. And it seems to us that the whole question is met by our second clause:—

"No person shall be allowed to start or establish an apiary on any land other than his own residential property without the consent of the Apiaries Division of the Department of Agriculture."

The intention to establish an out-apiary is forwarded to the Department three months before the intended establishment, and the same is published in our Journal for all to see and, if necessary, lodge their protests; all protests to be examined by a representative of the Department and National and decided upon the actual facts presenting themselves to these gentlemen whilst in the proposed apiary district. We cannot see that much else is possible. However, we shall no doubt soon be hearing from Dr. Reakes on the matter, and until then we need not again stir up discussion.

* * * *

With reference to the resolution passed at Conference re increasing the penalty for breaches of the Apiaries Act, we have received the following from the Director-General of Agriculture:—

Wellington, 16/11/20.

Dear Sir,—

The Department has had under consideration a resolution passed at the last Conference of your Association dealing with the proposal to increase the maximum penalty under the Apiaries Act. The matter was not one that could have been inserted in the Apiaries Amendment Act recently passed without endangering the passage of that Act, and it will therefore be noted for future consideration.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. REAKES,
Director-General.

We certainly think it was wise in not asking for too much at once, and, provided we can get our requests attended to every year the same as we have done this year, we shall get on very well, and the industry must grow.

We noted that the Auckland Herald congratulated both the beekeepers and orchardists of the Dominion for the self-reliant spirit displayed by their efforts to assist the Department in checking disease by the establishment of a self-imposed tax.

* * * *

We must apologise to many of our correspondents for the delay in publishing their letters. The large amount of space required last month for the copies of the Gazette notices and the report from Australia re Nosoma Apis disease was the cause of the letters being crowded out.

* * * *

We are indeed pleased to find the National still increasing its Branches, the latest districts to come in being Auckland and Nelson. There is a large number of beekeepers in these districts, and we hope they will all join up and make the Branches a huge success. There is nothing so helpful to those who take office as to see individual enthusiasm in the members, each keen on the industry and in the matter of making the Branch a live one. We cannot all be officers, experts, &c., &c., but we can all give our support by our presence at meetings, and it must be remembered that the most able expert is useless to a Branch unless he has an audience. Therefore, we say to all members, both of new and old Branches—Roll up to your meetings, even if you do not have anything to say; there will be others who have something to say to you to your mutual benefit.

It has been said that the reason why some of the Branches are not quite so active as they might be is the fault of the National and its Executive not having a vigorous policy to lay before its Branches. We do not agree. We are of the opinion that if a certain number of people are inclined to start a Branch, it is for the reason of getting together at intervals for mutual benefit and interchange of ideas, not forgetting the discussion of any matter considered vital to the industry as a whole. And if each of those members is not willing to do his bit, either as demonstrators, or lecturers, or as members of an audience to meet the former, then they had far better not form a Branch, as disaster is certain.

We have known many cases where experienced men and women have gone out of their way to be of assistance to the less experienced member, but on arriving at the meeting for whom it was called found these hadn't taken the trouble to attend, and the consequence was failure.

The parent body has never indicated on what lines the Branches should be run, for the simple reason that the officials of the Branch would or should know the best means of holding the members together and maintaining interest. We believe this can be chiefly brought about by interesting papers and lectures on the industry, given publicly to all and sundry, whether beekeepers or not. We make this assertion, that in every Branch there are members who are quite capable of giving interesting and helpful lectures on some phase of the industry. With one, it is hive and frame

making; with another queen-rearing, making up nuclei; with another wax rendering, or other work connected with commercial beekeeping; and we are sure that if between this and next March the officials of the various Branches got together and fixed their winter programme in good time for the series to be published, there would be less talk about moribund Branches.

We have again and again suggested more interest be taken by the individual members, particularly those who say they are "only amateurs," because we are sure there are numbers of members who are considerably more than amateurs, and only want the assurance of attendance and interest to make them teach all they know. Our services are always available for assistance where it can be rendered: we want the National to be all that it should be, and are willing to go to considerable length to achieve this.

* * * *

The month of November for the most part has been very disappointing; instead of warm, settled bee weather we have had cold wintry squalls, high winds, and cold nights, which has given the bees a considerable setback. Stores have been very heavily consumed, and brood rearing curtailed in the Editor's district, and judging from the newspaper reports similar weather has been experienced all over the country, so the same conditions would prevail in the apiaries. However, as the beekeepers' temperament has to be made up very largely of "Hope," we trust the weather will be good to us in future, and enable the bees to get themselves into shape.

* * * *

This issue completes Vol. 4 of our Journal, and the Editor wishes to extend his goodwill to all readers for their kindly help during the past year. Our Journal is still holding its own, in spite of adverse circumstances in the matter of high costs of everything connected with printing, paper, &c., and we also believe the high standard is being maintained. The Editor tenders his sincere thanks to all those who have assisted him in this matter by contributing articles of general interest, and to those who have by their words of encouragement and thanks for the assistance rendered them by the Journal enabled him to carry on to the best of his ability.

A very HAPPY CHRISTMAS & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR to all is the earnest wish of

THE EDITOR.

Market Reports.

Honey Report.—During the past month there has been a little more enquiry for Chilian honey at the following values:—Pile X., 92/6 to 97/6 per cwt.; Pile 1, 87/- to 90/- per cwt.; Pile 2, 82/6 per cwt.; Pile 3, 75/- to 80/- per cwt.

The total sales amount to 560 barrels; 2607 barrels arrived per s.s. "Kenuta," and 130 casks St. Domingo sold at 68/- per cwt.

Beeswax.—The market continues dull. Thirty bags Chilian have been sold at £11 2s. 6d. to £11 5s. per cwt.

TAYLOR & CO.

Liverpool, 7th September, 1920.

The Director of the Horticulture Division has received from the apiary instructors the following reports concerning the honey crop prospects:—

Auckland.—October has been a very fair month for brood rearing, and the colonies have built up well. Prospects seem to indicate a good season for the beekeepers in the Auckland districts. Honey is scarce on the local market, and there are prospects of an increase in the price shortly.—G. V. Westbrooke.

Wellington.—During the past month the weather in the Wellington district has been squally, which will have the effect of retarding brood rearing in the various colonies. Generally speaking, the prospects of a surplus crop seem good, as clover and other bee forage is showing up well throughout the various parts of my district.—F. A. Jacobsen.

Christchurch and Dunedin.—There is every indication that the present season will be an excellent one. Generally, bees are in good heart, and the clover pastures are well forward. In bush districts the bees are building up well, and a surplus has been gathered. Fine weather prevailing during the willow and fruit bloom enabled the bees to gather a small surplus, thus saving an immense amount of feeding. From this onward, if fine weather prevails, feeding will not have to be resorted to. Prices are firm, with an upward tendency. Bulk lines, none offering. Sections are scarce, and are quoted at 15/- per dozen; 10-lb. tins, none offering. There is a strong enquiry for pat honey. Beeswax is quoted at 2/- to 2/3, according to sample.—E. A. Earp.

Beekeeping for Beginners.

[As these Instructions conform to the seasons in the Auckland Districts, an allowance must be made for difference in latitude North and South. Average bee-seasons in the extreme North are four weeks earlier, and in Southland three weeks later.—Ed.]

How's the weather your way, my friend? Is it spring, summer, autumn or winter? How am I to write instructions for December when it is blowing "great guns," with squally hail showers, and cold? Ugh!

However, perhaps some of my friends are living in more salubrious climates, where the weather is seasonable, so I must make a few seasonable remarks.

December is a most interesting month in beekeeping: there are so many things that might happen—and don't; and on the other hand, so many things happen that shouldn't. Some of our bees are not well brought up; they won't "go by the book," and the very thing we work to prevent, they do; and we work to lead them a certain way, and they immediately do the opposite. Bad breeding, I call it.

Well now, suppose we talk "sections"? They are very interesting things to see on your breakfast table, and apparently one of the most difficult to get the bees interested in, as is evidenced by the following letters received. This from Auckland:—

"Could you oblige by giving in your December number a few lines on the management of a colony for section honey? Last year I built up a strong two-decker colony, and just before Christmas—I had my eye on a pohutukawa flow—I took off the top storey, shook the bees down, and put on a half-super with sections. The bees started building queen cells at a pace that the State Housing Superintendent might envy. I cut them out as fast, till I had to go away for a few days, when the bees, taking an unfair advantage of my absence, started a few cells and went off without waiting for them to be capped. The neighbours assured me it was the record swarm of the season, but that was poor consolation for missing the honey flow."

The late Dr. Miller had a famous phrase, "I don't know," and I am very much inclined to say the same; but that would not be much help to you, so we will just see if there is anything to account for the bad behaviour of your bees. You built up a strong two-decker—full depth top super of course—full of bees. You shook them out of this, and put on a half depth super of sections. Um! smell oil? I wonder now if you had put on three half-depth supers whether the bees would have behaved a bit better, 'cos you know, friend S., section racks take up a fair amount of room. I remember the manipulation for sections by one of the most successful beekeepers in the Dominion, whose method was thus:—A young queen in the brood chamber, when hive well populated, about 10 well-filled frames of sealed brood placed above an excluder. Ten days afterwards these were shaken free of bees and placed in another hive, then three full-depth supers with sections were placed over the excluder; and I would just here remark that the way those bees piled the honey in those sections was an eye-opener! Cutting out queen-cells to prevent swarming seems to me to be an absolute waste of time. I have yet to learn when it has been successful, apart from the big job to have to look over every comb, with every chance of missing one cell and all the labour in vain.

Dr. Miller's system of working for section honey is practically the same as I have described, as he used to get two eight-frame hives full of brood, then shake the top super clean of bees, and put on his sections, using the brood frames elsewhere.

This from Gisborne:—

"Could you let me know of any method of getting bees to work sections? I have tried several times, but they do not seem to like the fence separators. They draw some out, but do not properly fill them. What is the reason for this?"

It seems to me from your letter, friend A., that you do not get your hives strong enough. You must understand you want a very strong force of bees to successfully raise section honey. A large number of bees must be at home to secrete wax to build on to the foundation, and unless you have particularly strong hives the flow is over before the sections are filled. The answer to the previous correspondent will indicate the method practised by successful men. "Go thou and do likewise."

F. C. B.

Death of Dr. C. C. Miller.

It was with sincere regret that we learned of the death of Dr. C. C. Miller, of Marengo, Illinois, U.S.A., which took place at his home on 4th September, 1920, in his ninetieth year.

Although one did not know him personally, Dr. Miller was a man we all knew. His writings were of the very highest order; his advice to all on matters relating to beekeeping absolutely the best; his judgment on any appliance, manipulation, &c., &c., sound and experienced; and withal a bright, cheery optimism that was an absolute charm. Although an American by birth, Dr. Miller belonged to every country where beekeeping is followed, and the world is poorer by his passing. His writings showed a rare perception of God and His Kingdom, and his life evidenced this. Dr. Miller was a fully qualified doctor of medicine, although he only practised the profession for a short while. He was also a good musician, having composed a great many songs and hymns. His writings on bee culture will always remain as those of a conscientious experienced beekeeper, to which one can always refer, knowing he is going to one of the very best authorities possible. We are sure we are only voicing the feelings of our readers in expressing our sympathy to his widow and relatives.

Don't worry your head as to why black bees cap their honey so white. Get the honey!—Western Honey Bee.

APIARIES AMENDMENT.

A BILL INTITULED An Act to Amend the Apiaries Act, 1908.

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Apiaries Amendment Act, 1920, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Apiaries Act, 1908.

2. Section nine of the Apiaries Amendment Act, 1913, is hereby amended as follows:—

(a.) By omitting from paragraph (c) the word "free"; and

(b.) By inserting after paragraph (c) the following new paragraph:—

"(cc.) Prescribing fees to be paid on the registration of apiaries, and the method of disposal of such fees."

Paragraph (c.) will now read:—"Providing for the registration of apiaries and the terms and conditions of such registration;" then the (cc.) paragraph to follow.

Extension of the National Association.

BRANCH FORMED IN AUCKLAND.

[We have been sent the following clipping from the Auckland "Star," and shall be able to give more particulars when we get the secretary's report. In any case, we congratulate the youngest Branch in having as its President the oldest beekeeper in New Zealand in Mr. I. Hopkins, one whose enthusiasm in the industry would be hard to equal. We wish the Branch every success.—Ed.]

A general meeting of the Auckland Bee Club and Beekeepers' Association was held in the Chamber of Commerce recently. There was a good attendance of both old and new members.

It was resolved to affirm the resolution passed at the last meeting of last season to form an Auckland Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand and to affiliate with the parent body. The syllabus for the season was approved. This is to take the form mainly of visits to and lectures and demonstrations at local commercial apiaries during the summer months. A course of lectures will also be given with complete moving pictures taken under the direction of Mr. Hopkins. All these demonstrations and lectures should prove of particular interest to beginners and returned soldiers who contemplate establishing apiaries as a means of livelihood.

The election of officers resulted in a strong committee being appointed. Mr. Henry Brett was elected patron; Mr. I. Hopkins ("father" of beekeeping in New Zealand) President; Messrs. C. F. Ryland and R. F. Way Vice-Presidents.

BRANCH FORMED AT NELSON.

We have great pleasure in recording another addition to the number of Branch Associations by the formation of one for the Nelson Province, and that although we are only of very modest strength in numbers at present, we hope for big things in the future. Our Branch is to be called The Nelson Provincial Branch of the N.B.K.A., and we are very proud of the fact that Mr. Jas. Allan, our esteemed ex-President of the National, became our first member.

Our meeting was called by Mr. P. Martin for the 6th November, and although Mr. Allan could not personally attend, we hope to have him with us on future dates.

We decided to hold our next meeting at Mr. Martin's apiary at Umukuri on 24th November in the form of a Field Day, one of the items to be the treatment of a colony for disease by Mr. Martin, and a lecture on "The Anatomy of the Honey Bee and Microscopic Examination of Bees," by Mr. C. B. Morris, of Riwaka, and other items.

It was decided to hold our meetings alternately at Motueka and Riwaka, of which due notice will be given, and a cordial invitation to attend is hereby given to all those interested in the industry. We aim at making the Branch as its name would imply, representative of the whole province of Nelson, and we shall be glad of all beekeepers, large and small, who would come along and help us to help themselves.

Mr. G. H. Sargeant, of Motueka, accepted the position of acting secretary until permanent officers were elected, this to take place after the meeting of the 24th Nov.

With this we make our bow!

District Reports.

TARANAKI.

This is certainly the latest spring we have had for many years. At one outyard where there is a patch of honeysuckle, I find that it is not yet in full bloom, which is just about two months behind time.

We had a few nice days with a fair flow about two or three weeks ago; but for the

last two weeks we have had real winter: hail, strong cold westerlies and gales have only let up at odd moments. Had sugar been unprocurable this last few weeks, it would have spelt "Exit" to beekeeping in Taranaki. I would like to add a word of praise to our H.P.A. management in being alive to the fact and pushing enough to obtain supplies.

Clover flowers made their first appearance about ten days ago, and with warm weather should shortly play their part.

H. R. PENNY.

Okaiawa, 14/11/20.

TAIERI.

It is a bad month: it always is, as a matter of fact. The rain drips and dribbles here and there by fits and starts over all the thirty days. Aeolus and Jupiter Pluvius (or other such body) are at one as regards the climatic conditions to be inflicted on us at this period. November weather has been the same for the last five years. 'Tis this regularity that saves us, fortunately. Forewarned is forearmed, they say; but those of us who treated just now, willy nilly, are billed, I am afraid, for a certain loss. Boo-hoo! So much for despising knowledge!

Still another! Emigration from the Taieri is proceeding apace. It seems to be the breeding ground for the microbe Wanderlust. Yes, a mainstay of the Association gone north. I fear it is commercial beekeeping draws him. Mellis sacra fames! Aids digestion! Well, long life and long pockets, Donal'! What's yours? Right! Make it two! Now let's all join in the chorus, "Wull Ye No Come Back Agen?"

So that empty joke carried a deal of ballast after all! We were mightily pleased to read No. 84 N.Z. Gazette. We shall pat those jokers on the back when they shed their aliases.

A roaring Christmas to you, one and all!

BASIL H. HOWARD.

15/11/20.

NELSON.

For the last month windy, wet and wintry weather has prevailed here. The surplus gained during fruit bloom is at vanishing point. Having no sugar, I boiled six tins of honey in readiness for feeding. To-day brought a change to better weather, so feeding may be unnecessary at present. If any brother beekeeper has never boiled honey, and finds he needs it, let me advise him to fill the copper, light the fire, then persuade his wife to look after the honey; my experience is that it will boil over in any case, and that it is much better to help your wife to clean up the awful mess she made, than to get into trouble for making that same mess yourself.

Swarming is proving a real problem this year. Bees appear possessed with a frantic desire to swarm at every opportunity. It is very certain that no "let alone" plan would work here this season. Empty combs above or below brood chamber made no difference, and colonies that were only fragments started cells. More work may be the remedy.

Manuka and blackberry are not yet showing blossom, being about a fortnight late. A far greater amount of clover than usual is showing and now blooming well; thus prospects here continue to be good.

One important item is the forming of a Branch of the National—namely, the Nelson Provincial Beekeepers' Association at Motueka. Now, fellow beekeepers in Nelson Province, we need the help of every one of you in this matter. Will you join us? Or can we help you to start a Branch in your own locality? Consideration of space prevents anything else being said here, except that a few lines by post or a visit to Umukuri will be appreciated, as the duty of sending reports to the Journal will probably fall to someone else in future. May I ask any beekeepers visiting Nelson not to overlook us? Being a small Association, we shall need all the outside help possible, and will gladly arrange meetings.

P. MARTIN.

Umukuri, 17/11/20.

HAWKE'S BAY.

Our report this month must be a report of crowded brood chambers and of swarms. No small swarms have been reported, but no word that has come to us can be classed with the fishy stories of our piscatorial brethren.

Central Hawke's Bay has had a fair flow of honey this spring, and the colonies have built up well. At the end of October we saw a few bees flying about the clover. Since then we have had a cold snap, with snow heavy on the mountains and frost on the plains. Yet again our weather has changed, and a few days with the heat of to-day should bring on the clover fast.

We had a meeting recently at the apiary of Dr. Kennedy, of Mount St. Mary's Mission. It was a happy afternoon. The bees were on a terrace below a beautiful garden. There were those present who lingered among the flowers. Others there were who were enchanted by the view of the land and water and town of sunny Napier. Down at the bees, the way to raise queens was shown, and "shook swarming" demonstrated. Though the garden was an idyll, and the view enchanting, there lacked no interest in the bees, and when expressing thanks visitors were not unmindful that the afternoon had been wonderfully profitable.

J. P. BOYLE.

November 12, 1920.

Canterbury Tales.

By E. G. WARD.

I have frequently made remarks about Canterbury weather, mostly of an uncomplimentary nature. I wish it were otherwise, but I must again refer to the subject, because if there wasn't any weather to talk about, my "tales" would be shortened very considerably, and the occupation of some people in the talking line would be gone. I am not throwing bricks at any of the writers to the Journal. Well, the weather, what of it? At the time of writing we are having another taste of winter—strong S.W. gale, with hail, rain, sleet, and now and then, just to show us what nature can do in the line, she gives us a combination of the lot. I suppose as soon as the wind drops we shall have frost, and I shall have the "pleasure" of reporting that the clover, which is showing up well, has been blackened. Late frosts are one of the "luxuries" "enjoyed" on the Canterbury Plains. A visitor to Christchurch, when asked by a reporter if he could say anything regarding himself or his department, replied: "Well, you can say this—I'm not in favour of your weather."

Since I last wrote I have had a good spring examination of my bees, and am easy in my mind for the present. As usual, I found a few queenless colonies, which were united by the newspaper plan with weak colonies, and the stores used where most wanted. One colony was robbed out, there not being left a bee, alive or dead. Another colony had cleared out and left about 20 lb. of honey behind. This last case is a problem which will admit of much speculation as to the why and wherefore. I reared the queen last season, and she appeared to be first-class, judging by her work. I call it sheer "cussedness."

On page 191 we are told if we have a poor queen in a hive to kill her and insert a cell in a protector from a hive which has swarmed. Why protect a queen cell? Someone (Doolittle, I think) says that it is the queen who tears open the cell at the base, stings the immature queen, and the bees do the rest. Henry Alley says: "A queen cell may be inserted immediately after killing a queen, and if the virgin issues within an hour, she is generally accepted." He does not mention protectors. Personally, I do not like them, and consider they do more harm than good. I cannot see that cold wire next a cell is desirable.

Brother Penny, I am not on your side in what you say regarding giving brood instead of taking it away to prevent swarming. My experience is that it is the medium colonies that are the most prone to swarm, though I am glad to say it has never been a serious trouble with me yet. As to caging a queen, I am dead sure if I wanted to save myself a lot of extracting and packing of honey, I could hardly find a simpler way of doing it. If you want a colony to gather honey, see that it has a good queen all the time. If you want to see a colony loaf, just remove the queen and "there y'are."

In the October issue of "Gleanings" there are some interesting figures relative to the production of honey in the State of Wisconsin. After reading the figures and making a few rough calculations, I have come to the conclusion that New Zealand is not likely to swamp the world's markets. Last year the H.P.A. handled about 400 tons, I think. It looks considerable, doesn't it? But Wisconsin produced over 2,000 tons, and it is only one State in the Union. The total value was over £150,000 of British money. I think we had better not be too "cocky." We are not "the only pebble on the beach" after all.

Another item of news which appears in the same issue is one which has probably been expected by all beekeepers. I refer to the death of Dr. C. C. Miller. I feel safe in saying that there is not a beekeeper who has subscribed to "Gleanings" but who feels as I do—that we have lost a dear friend. I do not think anyone can read Dr. Miller's writings without wishing to know him personally. There are few who live to the age of nearly 90 years, as Dr. Miller did, and to be beloved by so many is well worth living for.

The Honey Pump.

It appears from correspondence appearing in the two last numbers of the Journal that a few of your readers are unable to get satisfactory results from the honey pump.

The Editor suggests that this is owing to some peculiar property in our New Zealand honey, and at last Conference it was stated that the elbows in the pipe were the cause of the trouble.

I am of opinion that neither of these suggestions will account for the trouble, as I have used a pump supplied by the A. I. Root Co. for several years, with the most satisfactory results.

One or more of the undermentioned small but important facts appear to have been overlooked by your correspondents:—

1. A four to six-frame extractor will require a ¾-inch pump, and for a 12-frame it should be 1-inch. A ½-inch pump should not be used for any size extractor.
2. The pump should be fixed at a few inches lower level than the outlet from the extractor in order to allow the honey to flow to the pump by gravitation. This is very important.
3. See that all joints in the pipe connection between the extractor and pump are perfectly airtight.

4. The large pulley should be on the pump and the small one on the extractor.
5. The pump must turn in an anti-clock wise direction—that is, as you would unscrew a nut.

H. BRYANS.

Kopuaranga.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Re the honey pump. I have used a Root honey pump for some years, and am quite satisfied with it. These pumps have their limitations; but, these considered, they will do the work. I have run mine for days without blocking. When trouble has occurred, it has been due to the honey being too cold, and, working with a capping melter as I do, I have got over the trouble by pouring the warm honey from the melter into the extractor, which frees the pump immediately. The size of the extractor should regulate the size of the pump. A ¾-inch pump is too small for an eight-frame extractor. The pump should not be driven too fast—the slower the better, and it should be set below the level of the intake.—I am, &c.,

J. BENTOUL.

* * * *

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In reference to the article, "My Experience with the Honey Pump," by A. L. Luke, of Awakeri, which appears in this month's Journal, we should like to state "The Diggers' Experience with the Honey Pump."

Last season we installed our extractor, which was an eight-framed one, with a one-inch honey pump. After having read and heard so many adverse criticisms in regard to the aforesaid pump, it was with some misgiving we decided to give this much-maligned article a fair trial. The question faced us—Would it efficiently convey the "food of the gods" to its destination in the honey vat, or——?

Fifteen supers of honey were brought in, weighing approximately half a ton. The first set of combs were uncapped and placed in their baskets. The diggers' "puff-puff" was set in motion, the baskets revolved, and the honey rained from the combs into the extractor. An awful suspense for a couple of minutes! and then—a soft gurgle, followed by the joyous sound of nectar gaily carousing from pipe to vat. The pump is a success! At the close of the season we could but emphatically endorse this statement, for the pump is indeed a success, and we are looking forward to the coming season with absolutely no misgiving as regards our pump. We might mention that the entrance to the pump is about three inches lower than the outlet from the extractor. The honey is pumped seven feet perpendicularly to the first curved elbow, thence horizontally for about eight feet, and finally through another curved elbow into the vat.—We are, &c.,

WOODS BROS.

Sefton, 6/10/20.

The Standing Committee.

The following letter has been sent by the Secretary, as arranged at Conference:—

Auckland, 2nd Nov., 1920.

The Public Service Commissioner,
Wellington.

Dear Sir,—

At the last Annual Conference of the National Beekeepers' Affiliated Association of New Zealand, which was attended by a large number of delegates, the following resolution was carried unanimously:—

"That the salary of an apiary instructor and honey grader be raised to at least that of a dairy produce grader, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Public Service Commissioner."

This resolution was carried because the beekeepers generally throughout the Dominion, and all organised bodies of beekeepers, have realised for some years that the apiary instructors and graders were not adequately paid for the service rendered to the industry.

This opinion is held very strongly by my Committee, who desire, by every means in their power, to induce you, sir, to remedy this injustice.

In support of the resolution, I should like to bring the following facts to your notice:—

The beekeepers of the Dominion have asked that the salaries paid to apiary instructors be equivalent to those being paid at present to the dairy produce graders, and they ask for this standard as a minimum and not as a maximum.

The apiary instructors and graders stand in the position of largely controlling the destinies of the honey industry and industry of beekeeping in New Zealand. Their duties are not confined merely to grading, because, in addition to the grading of honey—which, by the way, has been the means of enabling us to establish overseas the highest possible reputation for New Zealand honey and a constant and profitable market—the graders are responsible for all the instructional organising and research work connected with the domestic expansion of beekeeping in this country. That means that they must necessarily hold high qualifications in the scientific side, and they must necessarily be at the beck and call of all beekeepers at all times for technical help and instructions, necessitating the holding of demonstrations, field days, private tuition, lectures, formation of beekeeping clubs, in addition to requiring the ability to prepare up-to-date literature on the development of beekeeping science throughout the world. In addition to this, their duties include the control of various farms, queen-rearing apiaries, and establishments for the teaching of returned men and beginners sufficient of the rudiments of beekeeping to enable such beginners to become successful producers of honey.

The three chief apiary instructors and graders have each an enormous territory to cover, and this requires them to be constantly away from their homes, travelling in all weathers, and under all conditions, in order to not only instruct beekeepers, but also to carry out their responsibilities in connection with the eradication of bee diseases.

We claim, therefore, that the efficient carrying out of these duties is absolutely of vital importance to this growing industry, into which so many of our returned men are entering for a livelihood, and that the ordinary everyday duties of these officers entitles them, at the very least, to the same rating for salary as a first (class) grade dairy produce grader.

I understand that at present the maximum to which an apiary instructor can go is £345 per annum, while the maximum for a first grade dairy produce grader is now £500.

I understand also that during recent years the salaries of field officers in various branches of the Government service have been increased in a very much higher rating than the meagre increases granted to the apiary section.

This injustice should be immediately remedied, and my Committee will be very glad to submit further evidence in support of this claim at any time that you might wish to have same.

There are probably not less than 10,000 engaged in beekeeping in New Zealand, and there is a distinct feeling amongst these folk that the Government of this country do by no means properly recognise the value of the industry to the country.

Mr. Massey and his Cabinet are urging for greater production in order that we shall be able to carry the burden of increased taxation with a view to meeting our war liabilities. Here is an industry that gathers a waste product from Nature and turns it into wealth, and because of this, and because of the success of beekeeping in New Zealand—which success is largely due to the apiary section of the Department of Agriculture—it is reasonable that beekeepers should look to the Government to properly remunerate the officers engaged in the apiary section, otherwise there may be a grave danger of the better inducements offering outside the Government service causing the industry to lose the valued assistance of the present officers, or some of them, which would be a calamity.

I should appreciate the favour of a reply from you in due course, and meanwhile leave this matter in your hands, with every confidence that the rating of the apiary instructors and honey graders will be at once reviewed and that their future rating will be at least equivalent to that of a first grade dairy produce grader.

Yours faithfully,
For the N.Z. Honey Industry Permanent Standing Committee,
(Signed) C. F. RYLAND,
Secretary.

Subscriptions Received.

[NOTE.—Should there be found any discrepancy, please write the Editor.]

Miss Buckley, Christchurch, to Sept. 21.
R. Y. Langford, Upper Moutere, to Sept. 21.
W. H. C. McKenzie, Huntly, to Sept. 21.
R. Rochfort, Pio Pio, to Aug. 21.
R. J. Windelburn, Tuatapere, to Nov. 21.
V. J. Apperley, Tokanui, to Oct. 21.
W. Waters, Pukemiro, to Sept. 21.
H. Braithwaite, Nightcaps, to Oct. 21.
J. R. Hall, Peebles, to Sept. 21.
G. Arthur, Pipiroa, to Oct. 21.
W. B. Richards, Pukeawa, to Sept. 21.
C. W. Davis, Taumarunui, to Oct. 21.
T. P. Dowling, Rotorua, to Sept. 21.
Dr. C. J. Long, Auckland, to Sept 21.
F. A. Johnson, Rawe Rawe, to Oct. 21.
T. Y. Barwick, Akaroa, to Sept. 21.
J. B. Armstrong, Opotiki, to Oct. 21.
W. H. Paget, Kaiata, to Oct. 21
Geo. Watt, Riversdale, to Oct. 21.
R. A. Bell, Pirongia, to Oct. 21.
C. G. Surrey, Eltham, to Aug. 21.
H. Singleton, Pukerau, to Nov. 21.
T. F. Anderson, Auckland, to Oct. 21.
H. T. Limbrick, Waipawa, to Oct. 21.
H. C. McAffer, Waipawa, to Oct. 21.
W. E. Brough, Matangi, to Nov 21.
J. R. Williams, Oamaru, to Nov. 21.
C. F Horn, Waihou, to Sept. 21.
A. W. Price, Fairlie, to Nov. 21.
G. Coppin, Owaka, to Nov. 21.
W. E. Dix, Otaio, to Oct. 21
A. W. Soundy, Dannevirke, to Oct. 21.
S. C. Westbrooke, Ngaio, to Nov. 21.
W. H. Whitaker, Dipton, to Nov. 21.
F. W. Dutch, Rakaia, to Oct. 21.
G. McMaster, Waikouaiti, to Aug. 21.
Miss C. Gaunt, Okoia, to Nov. 21.
Mr Elmslie, Waverley, to Nov. 21.
C. W. Robinson, Auckland, to Feb. 22.
Miss M. A. Craig, Ahaura, to Nov. 21.
T. J. Rowse, Moana, to Nov. 21.
R. W. Wilson, Kirwee, to Nov 21.
E. C. Wadsworth, Takaka, to Nov. 21.
J. Dickson, Otautau, to Nov. 21.
H. H. Paddon, Fairton, to Nov. 21.
W. Angell, Stillwater, to Oct. 21.
Rev. A. Zangert, Saieo, to Oct. 21.
A. Hooper, Waitaki, to Oct. 21.
H. Evans, Arundel, to Sept. 21.
W. J. Linehan, Te Awamutu, to Nov. 21.
Miss E. K. Marshall, Halcombe, to Nov. 21.
W. D. Hill, Havelock North, to Nov. 21.
H. Simpson, Taumarunui, to Nov. 21.
W. Farmer, Glen Oroua, to Nov. 21.
A. R. McKenzie, Apiti, to Oct. 21.
A. Middleton, Pukekohe, to Nov. 21.
A. W. Just, Palmerston North, to Nov. 21.
S. M. Parry, Christchurch, to Oct. 21.
S. Attewell, Waimate, to Nov. 21.
F. J. Trevelyan, Ngatea, to Sept. 21.
J. Willett, Oamaru, to Nov. 21.
F. H. Wilson, Maheno, to Nov. 21.
J. Cuthbertson, Stirling, to Oct. 21.
T. L. Widdup, N. Wairoa, to Nov. 21.
N. Martin, Dargaville, to Nov. 21.
A. J. Carter, Aorere, to Nov. 21.
V. H. Jorgensen, Picton, to Oct. 21.
G. M. Blizzard, Picton, to Dec. 21.

The Marketing Problem.

By H. BARTLETT-MILLER.

Friend Ward, in these days of hard business, no man joins a commercial concern from a mere sense of duty, unless it is that kind of duty to his dependents to sell or buy in the most profitable market. When any concern fails after four years to realise the returns that were obtainable before such concern existed, I think that it is high time to take off the gloves and "get down to brass tacks." In comparison to the returns now made by the H.P.A., several present-day shareholders are receiving far less for their honey than they got before the H.P.A. was dreamed of. These men can to-day obtain by the sheer merit of their previous reputation a far higher return than the H.P.A. is netting; and while our capable N.Z. manager has to make up the loss entailed by what I argue is the ineptitude of our English agents, the H.P.A. will never obtain as good returns as at least some of our shareholders could get through local sales outside the H.P.A. In fact, until we have our own paid manager in England, selling our New Zealand honey for even as little as it sold for before the war, we shall never meet with the success we are ever expecting and never realising. The amount of commission paid by us to the H.P.A. will pay as good an English manager as we can obtain, £1,000 a year, and, hold your breath, put some £600 to £700 more in our pockets besides. Did it ever occur to you that we are paying the B. and D. 5 per cent. on every expense our honey entails until it arrives in the grocer's shop? It is not on the advance we get that we pay the 5 per cent. commission; we pay it on the gross price to the grocer.

Our New Zealand honey, before the war, was bought up by (among others) two persons now in New Zealand, who paid around 5d. per lb. for it at the broker's, then bottled it, and sold it to the general grocery trade at from 9/6 to 10/- per doz. 14-oz. packages. Now, can any person argue truthfully that Major Norton has ever attempted to place our honey—despite the increased prices of every commodity on earth—at the price it was sold at before we ever had an English agency? To tender the worn-out phrase, "When you talk of hundreds of tons, gentlemen," as the B. and D. do, is only wasted piffle to anyone with English experience of trading. To the teeming millions of England all our heaviest crop is about one smell each, and to talk to me about the English markets is to talk of a business where I have bought about everything there is to buy—from Arctic furs to condemned battleships; and I argue that if we want returns from English sales of our honey, which is England's standard of perfection, we must practise Punch's advice—viz., "When you want a thing done well, do it yourself." You will do it yourselves when you have your own paid manager at Home, whose salary will depend, not upon commission, but upon giving us satisfactory service in the shape of satisfactory returns for our unequalled quality goods. This the B. and D. never has done, and never will.

If it were not for the business push of our New Zealand manager, we should indeed be in a bad way. This remark applies only to those producers who have not that inate business way that the successful salesman possesses. To those many (the writer included) who do possess business experience, the loyalty to the H.P.A. is kept up only at extreme sacrifice of money, for each and all of them can command the confidence of the wholesale merchant by the past reputation of their goods.

So to argue that such persons ought as a matter of duty to patronise the H.P.A., while perhaps excusable, is not, when analysed, the strict truth. I certainly think that we shall in time obtain as good returns from the H.P.A. as we could outside it; but while our Home agency adopts no better policy—or lack of policy—than it does at present, we shall ever be at the risk of some firm with better methods offering to pay up every shareholder's share money to the H.P.A. and capturing our honey business in toto. One year's profit on our output would pay off all our full capital, all advertising, and all the exs. of travelling in both England and New Zealand necessary to the buying up of the whole business!

Now, then, I have been approached by relations in England with a tentative proposal to do just this very thing, so that my vision of the possible result of the unsatisfactory return now being excused by the B. and D. is not the mere dream of the inexperienced critic, butting in where he has no better proposition to offer. If we do not make a move and obtain better returns than we are obtaining from England to-day—and we are told to expect still lower returns—then someone else will do so, and all our talk of loyalty will end in smoke before an assured better return, which will more than recoup whatever we may lose in share value by seceding from the H.P.A.; and such better return will be guaranteed for a long period of years; there will be no buying up one season just to get us into a net at some future date. The sale of England's standard honey (as our clover honey is) is altogether another thing than the classes of honey the B. and D. are talking about. England would not abandon any article the country has once adopted; their native conservatism is too intense, and the sale of any goods recognised as standard is at Home a much coveted privilege. Anyway, let us just go on in our present "laissez faire" attitude of "Good enough" a little longer, and then when it is too late we will see what we will see; and we will be very sorry for it. If we want success for the H.P.A., remember that, however larger the returns from any such new firm

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Sir,—Your footnote appearing to Mr. Murdoch's article in the September issue should cause anyone to pause and make further inquiries before deciding to choose a location in Westland. My own impressions may not be worth much, but as they are gathered from a three years' residence and a valued friendship with the most successful beekeeper on the Coast, extending back for nine years, a regular correspondence—that is, an exchange of bee news and experiences and a recent visit searching for what I did not find—"An Ideal Location"—may at least assist another to see the other side of Mr. Murdoch's fairyland picture. Mutual friends speak of Mr. Murdoch as a good fellow, a man whose word can be absolutely relied upon, and one can only feel sorry that he is evidently in error judging beekeeping returns. The experienced beekeeper visiting Westland will be able to judge for himself, but what of the man Mr. Murdoch especially desires to help—the returned soldier? With a course of instruction and a few months training at the most as his only guide, these men are taking additional risk in going to another district requiring different management to where the instruction was received. Being a returned soldier is no guarantee of success in beekeeping. Compared to Canterbury, I will not take space to reply on this point at present; sufficient to say that Canterbury is a proved district on the honey map, and a man will do well to stick to it until such time as Westland proves as good, or better.

Climatic conditions cannot be regarded as favouring beekeeping. When seeking information on Westland, reference to the New Zealand Year Book reveals the fact that there were 210 days on which rain fell recorded in 1918, and a rainfall of 120 inches. I have no figures for 1919. Average rainfall is about 112 inches. No wonder a friend writing says:—"Raining again; we are all getting web-footed." Honey flow enquiries on this point go to show that rata is the main source of supply, this yielding a light flow for two seasons and heavy the third year. What if the third year should prove a wet season? The record return so far appears to have been secured by Mr. Murdoch in 1918-19, an average of about 1 cwt. per colony, or on spring count 158 lbs. per colony. This is very good on the surface, but looking into it we find this crop was secured during the good rata season on a good location, and in a small apiary of only 17 colonies, spring count, about 10 or 12 colonies being the only other bees kept in the district. My hopes of fairyland went down to zero! Is it fair and reasonable for anyone to estimate the average (200 lb.) return of a commercial apiary on these results? If not, can Mr. Murdoch show us anything more definite? Mr. Murdoch spoke of the season as one of the best on record, as the weather proved favourable during the honey flow. This, coupled with other favourable conditions—good location, small apiary, careful management, even to the extent of providing shade for hives—should have shown a return of at least 400 lbs. per colony if the average in a commercial apiary could be 200 lbs. every season. Quality of honey is admitted as wonderful to me; still it would be more fair to state that Westland honey does not often grade so high. I saw samples in Grey that only

graded 80 odd points—85, I think it was. "Spring fodder not surpassed in New Zealand" is another surprising statement. Why were beekeepers in the Grey Valley feeding sugar syrup last spring. The weather was good at the time, yet nearly a ton of sugar was fed in one apiary, and feeding was general with other beekeepers. No willows, no fruit blossom. I did not visit locations south of Ross supposed to be good, as these range from Ross (the railway terminus) to Wataroa, especially mentioned by Mr. Murdoch, and only 48 miles by coach from Ross. Time and space will not permit anything further. A description of Westland's beautiful scenery would fill books, and my wish was that we had a Dickens to write them. However, as a beekeeper I would like to know why Mr. Murdoch does not get someone to produce the first five ton crop of honey in Wild and Watery Westland; then tell us it can be done!—I am, &c.,

P. MARTIN.

Umukuri, Nelson, 14/8/20.

* * *

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I started last season with twelve colonies and ended up with 29, and extracted 1,300 lbs. of honey, leaving two supers each with any honey in them on 23 colonies and one storey to the other six. I had to leave Italian bees go and get back to the blacks on account of foul-brood. The Italians, I find, are such inveterate foragers and keep their brood nest so compact that one stands very little chance of securing a crop should this terrible disease be about the district. Any infected honey either in thrown out tins or belonging to a weak colony capable of being robbed will attract these never satisfiable Italians after booty, and get it they will. Then the fat is in the fire! Again, if the brood nest suffers from cells containing foul-brood, they will uncap them and try and drag out the contents in their desire to have every cell "do its duty," with the result that spores are smeared all over the hive, and the last stage is worse than the first. So thoroughly did they do that with me in one case that not one single cell was left in the frames which did not contain foul-brood. It was a solid sheet of this abominable disease. So it is exit the Italians; enter the blacks. They generally leave an infected cell, and I find it will take four or five seasons for a black colony to die from the disease if left to itself. I left them to themselves in the early part of my beekeeping career, as I did not know what was up against me, but I know now. So I advise any of my fellow apiarists: "If you have got foul-brood in your hives, stop right there and clean it out immediately; you have come to the parting of the ways; one of them is labelled "Success," the other "Out-and-out failure" so far as the future is concerned; so do not play with it, but having looked at it straight in the face, face it, and so take the right pathway.

Now, speaking of the work in connection with co-operation amongst beekeepers. If the work is worth going in for, it is worth doing well. "Humph!" you say; "what a commonplace remark." Yes, sonny, but it means very uncommonplace actions; because if the work is before you, you will subordinate everything to it so as to bring your ideal to a successful issue. This means that you will need to allow yourself to be used both as a football and a mat by your fellow-apiarists, and, my word! won't they kick you about and wipe their feet on you. This is the treatment that brings out where a man is in moral stature, whether he will prove great or small; if great enough he will go straight on with the work; if not, he will drop out. Adieu, fellow pilgrim!—I am, &c.,

JOHN PATERSON.

Davie St., Hokitika, 10/9/20.

[Well, Pat., all we can say is that yours is an Irishman's reason for dropping the Italians.—Ed.]

* * *

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—The ti-tree is well out in bloom here, and the bees have been working at it all fine days through the winter. I saw the first blooms 1st March, gorse 1st February, and bees were working the bluegum in Easter week. First week in July there was such a hum on with the bees that Mr. Walton lifted the lid of a hive with a super on, and honey was being stored in two of the frames. First fine weather in August he went through half the bees; they had four, five, and six frames of brood; on 21st August he went through the other half, and found a hive crowded out, preparing for swarming, two queen cells; the queen and some bees were taken away, and on looking at them this week they were found to be doing well.

The hives here, with the exception of a few small colonies, have the supers left on and blocks under the fronts all through the winter; the bees take care of the combs. There is no wax moth or mouldy combs, and bees come out strong in the spring.

Can you tell, Mr. Editor, what the fascination is about the hum of the bee; it seems to call and draw you down to the hives. I know it is not only the hope of gain that makes the beekeeper love his work; all are enthusiasts; when spring comes and the birds sing and bees hum, I think of the lines:—

"Ye musical hounds of the fairy king,
That hunt for the golden dew,
Till the echoes in the flower bells ring
With the sound of your elfin crew."

Last summer a beekeeper friend came to see us, and my husband gave him an Italian queen; but I did not know at the time. While we were at dinner we suddenly heard the sweetest music, like a tiny harp being played. I thought of an Æolian harp, and looked up at the window, thinking it might be the wind on the blind cord. We all looked at one

another; then the beekeeper put his hand to his breast and exclaimed, "My queen." Sure enough he had a queen cage in his pocket, and the poor bee was fanning on the fine wires. I shall never forget the sound—it was so sweet.

Another beekeeper near here has a novel way of getting rid of his drones. A pet hen knows the difference, stands beside the hive, and catches the drones as they return from a flight.

Looking over some old Journals a short time ago, I noticed a correspondent was asking for a simple way to whiten wax. My husband found out by accident. He was rendering some old combs, and when lifting a tin of melted wax away from the wax-press, he tripped and upset the wax into a tub of clean cold water. The water was turned brown, and the wax floated on top, a light colour, and after being melted again kept its light colour. He related his discovery to a friend who was rendering a lot of old combs. He went one better, and put his wax through two waters, and declares that he got wax from the old comb equal to any from new cappings.—I am, &c.,

L. WALTON.

Oruru, Mangonui, 10th Sept.

* * * *

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I read in the Bee Journal to break wedges in pieces to fix in Hoffman frames. I think I have a better plan. I take a piece of 8 or 10 x 1 full 19 inches long, and nail two uprights 14 inches long on opposite ends flush with one face of bottom board; next nail a 3 x 1 crossbar on top edges of uprights, 9¾ inches above bottom board; then nail two strips in between for frames to rest against; next cut a piece of ⅝ or ¾ not quite as wide as the space between the ends of a Hoffman frame and about a quarter-inch above the bottom bar; bevel one edge off, leaving about 3-16 inch; next bevel a little on opposite side. In using, push wedge in position, stand frame upside down in the press, and placing bevel edge of short piece on wedge with a lever under top bar, drive home. I have been using the original one I made for years. My old friend Mr. Dutch uses one like it. We never have wedges come out.—I am, &c.,

F. SAUNDERS.

Rakaia, 16/9/20.

* * * *

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I keep the Journal, and would not part with it, and for the matter of that am quite willing to pay a larger subscription if necessary.

Re the suggestion of a license of £5 annually. I am very much in favour of such a plan, and would be willing to pay more. Like most other places, this part of the country is putrid with foul-brood, and quite a number of people keep a few hives. One man about half a mile from my apiary keeps about ten or twelve. Some time ago I tried to buy him out, but he would not sell, neither will he clean them. The result is that I will have to shake all my bees this spring, and at the same time know that they will bring home disease again in the autumn.—[Why not put the inspector on; he would very soon get the man busy?—Ed.]

This is the worst spring I ever remember for frost. Many a year we have had more wind and rain, but this season it has been freezing practically all the time since the beginning of August, and we have had very few days suitable for work among the bees. Of course, I have been through most of them, but had to do it at odd times on account of the cold. I find that most of the bees have wintered well and that the queens are doing their duty. We must have had a remarkably heavy yield last autumn, as the hives are full of honey—too much, in fact—and as I want to McEvoy as soon as the weather is warm enough, I do not know what to do with this honey. It is too thick for the extractor, so I think it will have to go through the press (German wax-press). Do you think it will work satisfactorily?—

I am, &c.,

DOWN SOUTH.

Invercargill, Sept. 21, 1920.

[It will probably be darkened, but otherwise all right for your own use.—Ed.]

Railway Freight on Honey.

The following is a copy of a letter received from the Department dated 30th September:—

"I beg to inform you that the representations regarding railway freights on bees, honey, and beekeeping appliances, which were recently submitted to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture by a deputation from your Association, were placed before the Hon. Minister of Railways, with a view to ascertaining if there was a possibility of relief being afforded, and for your information I append a copy of his reply dated the 22nd inst.

"'With reference to your memorandum of the 20th ult. in regard to the representations made at the last National Conference of Beekeepers, I have to advise you that honey (New Zealand produce) is charged at the class "D" rate, and is now on the same footing as butter, cheese, and other products of the kind. Live bees in hives are, as stated, charged at the class 'A' rate, but beehives (empty) and other appliances used in connection with the industry are charged class "C." I regret that it is impossible to make reductions in railway rates at the present juncture. The recent increase in salaries and wages of the staff and the high cost of materials, coal, and operating expenses generally preclude such a course.'

"Yours faithfully,
"(Signed) C. J. REAKES,
"Director-General."

[By the above, it seems that instead of lowering the freight on honey, the rates on butter, cheese, &c., have been placed on a par with it. Not much help to us!—Ed.]

Beekeepers' Exchange.

[Advertisements on this page will be inserted at the rate of 3/- per 36 words per insertion. Cash must accompany order or will not be inserted. Addresses care Editor 6d. extra to cover cost of postage of replies.]

NOTICE TO BEEKEEPERS.

I AM ESTABLISHING a Commercial Apiary on Lots 3 and 4, Part Section 1, Parish of Opaheke, Papakura.
J. A. BURNS.

FOR SALE, 100 ZINC QUEEN EXCLUDERS, in good order, in lots to suit purchasers. Price, 2/6 each.—Apply
L. MAUKTELOW,
Thames Valley Honey Co., Ngatea,
Hauraki Plains.

NUCLEI FOR SALE.

I SPECIALIZE in NUCLEI, and am now booking orders for delivery from February onwards for good strong 3-frame Nuclei, with young Queen from my breeder.

A real honey gathering strain; original breeder the pick of 1,000 colonies.

No foul-brood. Safe arrival guaranteed.

Price, 32/6 each f.o.r. Normanby.

Reduction large quantities.
H. R. PENNY,
Okaiawa.

NOTICE TO BEEKEEPERS.

I HAVE ESTABLISHED an Out-Apiary at MAYFIELD,, and am Establishing other Out-yards in the vicinity.
J. T. BULL,
Mount Somers.

YOUTH WANTED as Cadet by Commercial Apiarist; good tuition and home. Address EDITOR.

COMB FOUNDATION.

I am now MANUFACTURING COMB FOUNDATION from Beekeepers' own Wax, at 8d. per lb.

2/6 per lb. spot cash paid for Beeswax in any quantity.
A. ECROYD,
157 Cranford Street,
Christchurch.

WANTED TO BUY, One 2-Frame Reversible EXTRACTOR; 12-inch baskets preferred. Particulars to
G. W. KEAST,
R. MAIL,
Pahiatua.

COMMERCIAL APIARISTS willing to assist Returned Soldiers who have had a Course of Instruction in the industry are requested to communicate with
CHAPLAIN CAPT. HARDIE,
Trentham Camp.

THE APIS CLUB.

Port Hill House, Benson, Oxon., England.

Two of the chief planks in the platform of the above Club are——the stimulation and conduction of research work in Bee Culture and the creation of International scholarly relations amongst progressive apiarists in all countries.

Membership Fee, 7/6 per annum, which includes one year's subscription to the "Bee World," a paper that has by sheer merit come right up to the front rank of Bee literature. ENROL NOW!
Dr. A. Z. ABUSHADY,
Secretary.

HONEY.

We intend to enter into the Honey business next season and will require large quantities of South Island Honey early in the New Year. Our arrangements will enable us to offer to beekeepers a better price for their crop than they can obtain elsewhere.

Fairbairn, Henderson Ltd.,

Importers, Exporters and General Agents,

238 CUMBERLAND STREET,

DUNEDIN.

P.O. Box 502.
Telegrams: "Fairhand, Dunedin."

1920-21 AMENDED PRICE LIST

of

ITALIAN QUEENS.

PRICES:

	1	2	3	4	5
Untested	7/6	14/6	21/-	28/-	35/-
Select Untested—1/- extra per Queen.					
Tested	12/-	23/-	33/-	40/-	50/-
Select Tested ..	17/6	34/-	45/-	60/-	75/-
Breeders	30/-				

Orders for Full Colonies booked up for the season.

Tested Queens booked up till 21st December. Untested, about 20th November.

TERMS: Nett Cash with order. Cheques to have exchange added. P.O. Order Office, Edendale.

All Bees and Queens Guaranteed FREE FROM DISEASE, and bred from good working stock.

Postal Address:

ROBERT GIBB, MENZIES FERRY, SOUTHLAND.

Reducer Competition.

IT APPEARS TO OUR FIRM THAT BY OUR SILENCE UPON THE SUBJECT OF THE PROPOSED COMPETITION FOR COMB HONEY REDUCERS, WE WERE INDICATING A RELUCTANCE TO SUBMIT OUR PATTERNS FOR PUBLIC COMPETITION.

TO THOSE WHO HAVE ATTENDED THE ANNUAL FIELD DAY OF BEEKEEPERS AT THE STATE FARM AT RUAKURA, THESE REMARKS WILL NOT APPLY; BUT TO SUCH PERSONS WHO HAVE NEVER ATTENDED ONE OF THE RUAKURA FIELD DAYS, THE FAILURE OF OUR FIRM TO MAKE ANY MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF A PUBLIC COMPETITION MIGHT REASONABLY BE REGARDED AS AN INDICATION THAT WE WERE NOT IN FAVOUR OF TESTING OUR INVENTION.

Our Real Reason.

The actual reason for our indifference in this matter of competition has been that all our rivals had produced such palpable defects in their Machines that there was—at least from the trained engineer's point of view—no need for any such competition. Where to-day is there one of the Reducers advertised that competed with the first **BARTLETT-MILLER REDUCER at Ruakura in 1915, or that has ever** so competed since? **Our Invention is the sole survivor, thus abundantly proving its claim by the law of the survival of the fittest.**

Again, at least the only other party putting out a Reducer to-day in competition with ours is placing a Machine no more like his Reducer exhibited at Ruakura last February than onions are like peaches! Naturally, the prospective purchaser asks himself (or herself) if the present pattern is to be final because deemed perfect, or whether the one he is now advised to get is so imperfect that in a few months longer it too will be discarded, as the same inventor has discarded in the last twenty-seven months some half-dozen other patterns, each of which, while the furore of the new idea lasted, was to knock off their perches every Reducer under the sun!

When ?

The thought will intrude itself into the mind of every person deciding to risk money in the purchase of a piece of extracting-room machinery that may reasonably be expected to need an outlay only every twenty years or so:—**"Am I getting a proved affair, or merely the extravagantly enthusiastic result of a mere novice's zeal in a belief in his own inventive genius?"**

Is it reasonable to expect any such prospective purchaser to place so implicit a confidence as that which the **BARTLETT-MILLER REDUCER** has earned so conclusively during the seven years of its unaltered pattern, in a new and as yet publicly untried pattern, which is so radical a departure from the same maker's Machine which he exhibited and demonstrated in company with ours at Ruakura last February that it is hard to believe that the same individual planned them both?

We ask ourselves, as we ask our readers,—Is it worth while arranging a competition with a pattern that may in a few months go the way of the half-dozen other discarded patterns placed by this same competitor?

We think that every reasonable person will agree with us when we demur that when our present competitor has proved that his present invention commands his own confidence (which confidence in his present pattern we much doubt), it is then time enough to talk about public money-prize competitions.

Haphazard *versus* Expert Opinion.

We have the fullest confidence in the Manager of the H.P.A.. As a business expert, precisely the right man in the right place, Mr. Ryland is a god-send to the New Zealand beekeepers. Exactly because of this qualification he is absolutely nowhere as a beekeeping expert, and thus, when in the price-list of the H.P.A. he states that our competitor's Reducer "answers all requirements," we very respectfully ask Mr. Ryland to "wait a little bit," until he learns what our beekeepers require when thick honey comes their way: to state upon the mere ONE short demonstration he saw—with clean combs at that too—that this new and otherwise untr'ed invention will answer all requirements, is at least to arrogate to himself a capability for judging where he cannot possibly—by the mere nature of his previous employment—possess any claim to pass any such encomium (or reflection) upon any Reducer. In any event, no prudent purchaser will buy with confidence a Machine with no more reliable recommendation than that of the inexperienced opinion of the Manager of the Firm which happens to have the Agency for the sale of it.

Open Letter to Beekeepers.

DEAR SIRS,—

There are at present indications that the New Zealand Honey Crop for 1921 will be considerably greater than the quantity produced during 1920, and if these expectations are realised, there will probably be available for sale not less than 1,500,000 lbs. of Honey in excess of the amount required for domestic and other uses in New Zealand.

The disposal of this enormous quantity of surplus honey is the vital question in honey production. The disorganised condition of the world's markets to-day, the world-wide financial chaos, is already affecting the primary producer in this Dominion. For example, our surplus wool is practically a glut in the world's markets, and growers are being forced to accept prices less than half of what they confidently anticipated, and are even being forced into the position of having to hold crops in order to obtain something approaching payable prices at a future date. In other countries, in connection with cotton, wheat, sugar, etc., the markets have broken down, buyers are completely demoralised, and sellers are faced with enormous financial losses.

In most countries there is a strong public opinion at work in the so-far successful attempt to lower the prices of foodstuffs in particular. This has caused us to carefully examine the position of honey, world-wide, and to issue a note of warning to the N.Z. Beekeeper.

Our Association fortunately had foreseen the present troubles and the necessity for educating the N.Z. public as to the value of honey as a food, and made it possible for the people to obtain a standard brand of honey all the year round. The efforts of the Association and its members to extend the "EAT MORE HONEY" campaign has led to the consumption in New Zealand being enormously increased. Our brand "Imperial Bee" Honey is to be found in every corner of the Dominion, and the sale is increasing by leaps and bounds. During the past twelve months we have distributed in New Zealand over 500,000 lbs. of this brand. This is a very unique record, and points to the fact that our Home Market will absorb still more Honey.

On the other hand lies the fact that a great number of people, including returned soldiers, are going into beekeeping, and this will result in a very large increase in production from 1921 onwards; thus we shall always have to find Overseas Markets for a fairly large quantity of N.Z. Honey.

During the present year our Association tried out many markets in various parts of the world, and were successful in selling large quantities of honey in America and elsewhere.

Unfortunately, all markets to-day are in a precarious condition. The price of Honey in America has dropped considerably, consequent upon the heavy production, the breakdown of the sugar market, and the inability to export owing to adverse exchange conditions.

For the coming season Great Britain will doubtless receive a large proportion of our Honey, and new markets, if they compare favourably, will be utilised in addition.

Beekeepers from the foregoing will be able to realise that the question of prices for the coming season will entirely depend on how the whole of the N.Z. Honey Crop is marketed. Our Association stands in the position of being able to market to the best advantage. It has its fingers upon the pulse of the New Zealand market as well as upon the pulse of Overseas Markets. It can estimate the quantity of honey which can be consumed in New Zealand, and by taking steps to prevent a glut in the Dominion can stabilise prices here as a first thing.

Its experience of foreign markets will enable it to successfully undertake the disposal of the surplus Honey. The Association **stands for the Beekeeper all the while.** It is truly co-operative, owned by the Beekeepers themselves, and concerned only with the matter of obtaining for the N.Z. Producer a permanently good return **year in and year out** for the Honey which he raises.

To achieve these results, to prevent a slump in the Honey Market in N.Z., it is absolutely imperative that every Beekeeper in the Dominion who has Honey to sell should co-operate by joining the Association and by placing his Honey with the Association for disposal. Any other policy at the present juncture would be suicidal.

All Beekeepers can become members on the easiest possible terms, and full information and all particulars can be obtained from Head Office.

Yours faithfully,

C. F. RYLAND,

General Manager.

BENTON'S QUEEN-CELL NURSERY-INCUBATOR (Patent No. 43259.)

THE MOST MODERN IMPROVEMENT IN QUEEN-CELL NURSERIES.

Its advantages are such as to lessen the cost of Producing Virgin Queens by fully one-third. It saves time, labour, and trouble, and many of the risks incurred in handling Cells; hence you cannot afford to be without one.

Do not forget, it is often poor economy to continue using out-of-date and inferior Appliances, when up-to-date and efficient Appliances are procurable.

THE BENTON QUEEN-CELL AND QUEEN NURSERY can be had in two sizes. The small size provides for the care of 16 Cells, and holds 6 half-depth Frames. The large size provides for the care of 48 Cells.

Send for descriptive leaflet and price of this proved success to the

SOLE AGENTS:

N.Z. Co-op. Honey Producers' Assn., Ld.

BOX 1293, AUCKLAND.

1920-21 PRICES OF ITALIAN QUEENS.

One or Two:	Three or Four:	Five or more than Five.
7/6 each.	7/- each.	6/6 each.

All orders accepted last season and during the winter months at last season's prices will be filled as agreed.

Colour Range of Workers Guaranteed Leather Three-banded to Golden Four banded.

TERMS.—Nett cash with order; Cheques to have exchange added.

Any Queen arriving dead at original address replaced Free if Cage is returned unopened.

NOTES.—Owing to the increase in the price of sugar, postage, and all materials, No Reduction can be made on large orders.

All orders filled in strict rotation. Beekeepers should order early and avoid disappointment. In the best interests of Customers no Queens will be sent out later than the second week in March. This will enable Queens to be raised for wintering in the Nuclei, thus ensuring early Queens the following Spring.

Customers can rely on getting the best of Queens, and are assured of Absolute Freedom from Disease.

Inspection of the Apiary cordially welcomed at all times.

POSTAL ADDRESS:

J. H. TODD, Renwicktown, MARLBOROUGH.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

Dept. of Agriculture, Industries & Commerce,
Blenheim, Sept. 15th, 1920.

Mr. J. H. Todd, Renwicktown.

Sir,—Having examined every hive at your Apiary at Renwicktown, I have found no evidence of Foul-brood.

(Signed) A. P. YOUNG,
Apiary Inspector.

Printed by Stone, Son & Co., Ltd., Dunedin, for the N.Z. Beekeepers' Association, and Published by F. C. Baines, Kati Kati. December 1st, 1920.